

**Submission  
No 5**

## **BROADCASTING RESOLUTION FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**Organisation:** Legislative Council of Victoria

**Date Received:** 1 December 2020



**Office of the President**  
Hon. Nazih Elasmr OAM MLC

30 November 2020

The Hon. Jonathan O'Dea  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
Via email [REDACTED]

Dear Speaker,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information to the Committee. We look forward to following your progress and the outcomes from your inquiry.

Chapter 20 of the Legislative Council Standing Orders sets out rules around broadcasting, recording and photographing the proceedings of the House. See Attachment A. These rules are taken to apply broadly to Legislative Council Committees.

**Broadcasting in the *Constitution Act 1975***

Section 74AA of the *Constitution Act 1975* states that no action can be taken against any person who broadcasts or re-broadcasts proceedings of the Houses or committees (with the authority of the House or committee).

**Broadcasting and re-broadcasting of House and committee proceedings**

The proceedings of the Council are broadcast live on the Parliament's website and available via IPTV throughout the precinct. Shortly after the House rises, a video-on-demand service is provided by Hansard and available for Members, their staff and parliamentary officers. The media can also be granted access to footage. Members are able to use footage on their own websites and/or social media platforms, as long as the use is in accordance with Standing Orders.

At this stage, the public is not able to download or access video footage from the video-on-demand service, however the Department of Parliamentary Services aims to provide this facility in future, subject to approvals and funding.

With the approval of the relevant Presiding Officer, parliamentary committees are able to re-broadcast a public hearing (ie replay on the website) later that day. They can also be authorised to give witnesses copies of footage of their evidence. Note, however, that not all committee hearings are broadcast.

**Streaming of Council proceedings:**

To date, the Legislative Council and its committees have not used social media platforms to stream official proceedings. However, committees have used Facebook Live to hold discussions and roundtables discussing inquiries or reports.



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**Issues around external parties re-broadcasting material**

Any footage broadcast or provided by Parliament can only be used in accordance with Standing Orders, and these rules are made known to users as terms and conditions of use.

Re-broadcasting has not been a cause of concern for the Legislative Council to date – noting that at this stage only Members and staff (and in certain circumstances, committee witnesses) have access to video on demand footage. From time to time Members have raised issues with the President but these have not been brought to the House or the Privileges Committee.

**Moderation of comments made on social media:**

Moderation of content on the Parliament's social media platforms is conducted by the community engagement team in accordance with the following community guidelines:

- The Victorian Parliament's Facebook page provides information about the work and history of the Victorian Parliament and events we organise. This page is independent of the government and political parties.
- We welcome comments on our posts. Comments should be relevant to the subject matter of the post and should be respectful. Parliamentarians and public figures should be referred to by their real names.
- Please do not advertise commercial products or activities.
- Do not post comments that use abusive or inappropriate language.
- Do not post comments that are defamatory, harassing, discriminatory, obscene, incite violence, infringe copyright or are otherwise illegal.
- Do not falsely claim to represent a person or an organisation.
- Please do not spam by posting the same comment to different posts in an excessive manner.
- The Victorian Parliament reserves the right to delete comments and block fans from the page for any of the above reasons.
- Please note, if you would like to contact a Member of Parliament, please visit Parliament's website for the appropriate contact details.

Yours sincerely,



Hon Nazih Elasmr OAM MLC  
President of the Legislative Council